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but it has always been found stronger than that. This variability is of interest as showing that there are differences in the properties of the two isotopes, and of course the effect of mass differences should be specially evident, on account of the large mass ratio 6 to 7, in the case of lithium.

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#### A REMEDY FOR MANGE IN WHITE RATS

A SIMPLE method of keeping white rats for experimental work free from mange has been successfully used for some time in this laboratory. Sore ears, noses and tails are quite common in rat colonies and are not caused by deficient rations, as is often thought, but by a parasite known as the *Notoedres alenis*.<sup>1</sup>

The lesions on the ear, due to the mange produced by this parasite, are very characteristic, causing the whole ear to swell and become inflamed with the outer edge of the ear fringed with a cauliflower-like incrustation. On the tail the lesions resemble those on the ear, while on the nose they frequently take the form of horn-like protuberances. These lesions can be readily differentiated from other lesions by the application of insecticides. We have found that pine oil<sup>2</sup> applied with a soft brush will heal affected parts very quickly. This oil has not only very healing properties, but also strong antiseptic and anesthetic properties. Because of the latter care must be exercised in its application.

Since learning of the effectiveness of this oil it is the custom in this laboratory to wash our animal cages once a week with hot water and soap and to spray the sawdust used on the floor of the cages with the oil. In this way all lice and parasites which are ordinarily troublesome pests in animal colonies are kept

<sup>1</sup> Private communication of Dr. B. H. Ransom, Bureau of Animal Industry, to Dr. J. E. Foster, formerly with the Mayo Clinic.

<sup>2</sup> The pine oil used for the experiments was furnished by the Newport Company of Pensacola, Fla., through the courtesy of R. C. Palmer, chief chemist.

down to minimum. If an individual rat becomes infested with lice it can be sprayed with the oil. An atomizer is used for this purpose.

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#### IMPOSSIBLE (?) STORIES

DR. CAMPBELL'S astonishment at the actual occurrence of the Mark Twain incident (March 4) "reminds me." I had looked upon the Irishman's astronomy as related by DeMorgan<sup>1</sup> as a good "manufactured" story. Long life to the moon for a dear noble crater

Which serves for lamplight all night in the dark,  
While the sun only shines in the day which by  
nature

Wants no light at all as ye all may remark.

I was astonished to hear Dr. W. C. Farabee, of the University Museum, relate that in his South American expedition he found the Shipibos Indians worshipping the moon and that upon inquiry they gave the same reason as the Irishman.

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#### QUOTATIONS

##### INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION

THERE is much to be said in favor of "team-work," the concentration of many experts on a single problem or on one aspect of a problem. Some inquiries are so vast in scale that progress on any other lines can not be expected.

The modern telescope has made known the existence of myriads of stars beyond those visible to the unassisted eye. The counting and classification of this multitude can be achieved only by the concerted patience of many men in many countries, and may yet form the basis of some new conception of the order of the universe. Meteorology and geodesy, the attempt to plot the shape of our earth from a number of long base lines, must be international. The determination of standards is of little use unless it lead to universally agreed methods and results. The development and control of fisheries, the ap-

<sup>1</sup> "Budget of Paradoxes," p. 242, 2d ed.